

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:LB
APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB
S/S: O-LRMACFARLANE
NEA:SSOBER

-----200721Z 097828 /16

P R 200544Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 115664

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ: HABIB VISIT TO
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BAGHDAD

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT,
IN RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL, THE IRAQIS AGREED TO RECEIVE
UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS IN US-IRAQI
RELATIONS. HABIB HAD A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER HAMMADI ON MAY 16. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL.

HABIB STRESSED THAT HE WAS IN BAGHDAD TO LISTEN TO IRAQI VIEWS AS WELL AS TO EXPLAIN U.S. POSITIONS.

2. HABIB DESCRIBED THE U.S. INTEREST IN NORMALIZING U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS AND PROVIDED A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE STEPS THE U.S. HAD UNDERTAKEN IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING ABOUT AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED THAT ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT NOW SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WOULD BE IN THEIR INTEREST.

3. HAMMADI INDICATED THAT IRAQ SHARED THE U.S. VIEWS THAT AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON ISSUES COULD BE USEFUL. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IRAQ WAS NOT YET READY TO RESUME

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BEFORE DOING SO, HE SAID, IRAQ WANTED TO SEE EVIDENCE OF A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE U.S. POLICY OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE ARABS WITH REGARD TO ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES. IRAQ WOULD ALSO NEED EVIDENCE, HE SAID, THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT INTERFERING IN IRAQ'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. HABIB PROVIDED UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT AND WILL NOT INTERFERE IN IRAQ'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT NOW SUPPORTING AND WILL NOT IN THE FUTURE SUPPORT ANY KURDISH DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ AND THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD NO LONGER BE AN ELEMENT AFFECTING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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5. HABIB REJECTED THE CHARGE THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN HOSTILE TOWARD THE ARAB NATION. U.S. POLICIES, HE SAID, WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE ARAB WORLD. HAMMADI REMAINED SKEPTICAL THAT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED GIVEN THE WIDE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAELI AND ARAB VIEWS.

6. WE DID NOT EXPECT DRAMATIC RESULTS FROM THIS MEETING BUT ARE HOPEFUL THAT A THAW IN U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS WILL NOW BE CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY BY THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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